

# Storm Water Permit Basics: The Federal (EPA) Storm Water Permit for Large & Small Construction Projects

**Do I need a storm water permit for my construction or demolition project?** You do if you answer yes to all of the following questions:

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- ▶ Your project disturbs 1 acre or more of land, either by itself or as part of a larger development; &
  - ▶ Storm water could run off your site in a directed manner (via a culvert, ditch, storm sewer system, roadway, storm dug channel, etc.) & reach a surface water (pond, stream, wetland, etc.); &
  - ▶ You are an “operator” in control of plans and specs, **or** of day-to-day site activity (e.g. owner, developer, general contractor).

**Note:** This permit is for construction projects in MA and NH. In the other New England states, contact your state environmental agency for permit requirements.

**The Permit: where can I find it?**

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- ▶ The permit – *NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities* – is on EPA’s web site at <http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>
  - ▶ Read the permit to learn the requirements and how they apply to your project.

**The Permit: what does it require?**

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- ▶ That you develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
  - ▶ The SWPPP describes how you will prevent erosion, control sediment loss and keep other pollutants from contaminating storm water and receiving waters.
  - ▶ **Important:** Do NOT send the SWPPP to EPA. Keep it on site, make sure it’s being followed and be prepared to show it to EPA inspectors who may visit your site!

**How do I get permit coverage?**

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Submit to EPA a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered by the permit. You can print out and mail in a hard copy of the NOI form (available at <http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>), or submit the NOI electronically (go to <http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/enoi.cfm>).

By sending in the NOI you are certifying that you

- ▶ have read the permit
- ▶ have prepared and will implement the SWPPP
- ▶ will comply with other permit requirements

**How do I know I’m covered by the permit?**

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- ▶ After you submit your NOI (electronically or by regular mail) to EPA, EPA will post your NOI at <http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/noi/noisearch.cfm>.
  - ▶ You are authorized under the permit once your NOI is shown in “Active” status. NOIs listed as “Active” have been posted on the EPA web site for at least 7 days (the “Waiting” period), and are not “On Hold” due to eligibility concerns (like impact on impaired surface waters or endangered species).
  - ▶ EPA will attempt to contact you regarding any problems or delays, but you must ensure you are authorized before starting work by checking the web site or calling EPA’s NOI Processing Center at 866.352.7755.

**What happens when I’m done with the project?**

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- ▶ Within 30 days after land disturbance has ceased and the site completely stabilized, you must file a Notice of Termination (NOT).
  - ▶ See the EPA websites listed in step 4 above for the NOT form and electronic filing options.

For more information contact:

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